

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12772 121543Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 121458Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9058
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EG MASS
SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF PEACE PROCESS

SUMMARY: MAY 12 PRESS REPORTS ON SFRC'S VOTE ON AIRCRAFT
SALES SUGGEST VOTE INDICATES SEVERE CONFLICT OVER
ISSUE AND THAT CONFLICT LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN FULL
SENATE. HIGH-LEVEL EGYPTIANS DEPLORE "HUMILIATION"
OF SAUDIS. ATHERTON DETROIT SPEECH RECEIVED ONLY BRIEF
COVERAGE. SADAT NY TIMES INTERVIEW COVERED ON FRONT
PAGES. GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL OBSERVES ISRAEL STILL DOES
NOT HAVE SECURITY DESPITE HER OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES.
ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL COMMENTS THAT ISRAEL NO LONGER ENJOYS
AUTOMATIC SUPPORT IN U.S. BECAUSE THERE GROWING APPRE-
CIATION THAT U.S.-ISRAEL SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THREAT
TO AMERICAN INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. SFRC VOTE. PRESS MAY 12 REPORTS FACTUALLY SFRC TIE
VOTE ON AIRCRAFT DEAL. STORIES REFLECT BYRD'S ASSESS-
MENT THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS ENOUGH VOTES TO WIN,
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BUT "OBSERVERS" STILL EXPECTING "BATTLE". POWELL SAYS
CARTER "CONFIDENT" SENATE WILL APPROVE, PRESIDENT
DEEPLY APPRECIATES "COURAGE" OF THOSE WHO VOTED APPROVAL.
AKHBAR ACCOUNT CARRIES STATEMENT FROM UPI ANALYSIS
THAT VOTE CONSIDERED TURNING POINT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND SAUDI ARABIA, USG'S "GREATEST ALLY" IN
ARAB WORLD. (COMMENT: ONE MINISTER TOLD US OF "HU-

MILIATION" OF SAUDI ARABIA WHICH CONDITIONS ATTACHED
TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL REPRESENT IN MOST
ARABS' EYES.)

2. ATHERTON SPEECH. ONLY GUMHURIYYA HAS BRIEF ITEM
ON SPEECH. IT HIGHLIGHTS ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF 242.
WITHOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY, TIED
TO CLEAR SECURITY AGREEMENT, PEACE CANNOT BE REACG
VY ON PAGE 1. ARTI
CLES
MENTION SADAT'S PROPOSAL THAT EGYPT ACCEPT CONTROL OVER
GAZA AND JORDAN'S OVER WEST BANK TEMPORARILY. (NO
MENTION OF "MAKING THINGS EASY FOR MR. BEGIN".) SELF-
RULE PLAN CRITICIZED AS GIVING LEGITIMACY TO ISRAELI
OCCUPATION. SADAT REMAINS PATIENT AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
INITIATIVE.

4. COMMENTARY. GUMHURIYYA NOTES TIGHT SECURITY DURING
ISRAEL'S THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND SAYS
ISRAELI PRIDE IN HER "POWER AND TRIUMPH" CANNOT OBSCURE
FACT ISRAEL WILL NEVER BE SECURE AS LONG AS SHE OCCUPIES
ARAB LANDS AND REFUSES RECOGNIZE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS.
ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL NOTES ISRAEL NO LONGER ENJOYS U.S.
UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT. U.S. HAS COME TO SEE THAT
SPECIAL U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP CONSTITUTES THREAT
TO AMERICAN INTERESTS AND THAT ISRAELI "LOBBY" HAS
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ALWAYS WORKED FOR INTERESTS OF ISRAEL IRRESPECTIVE OF
AMERICAN INTERESTS. GAMAL CITES AS EVIDENCE RESTON
COLUMN CRITICIZING DAYAN FOR PRESSURING CONGRESSMAN ABOUT
AIRCRAFT SALE AND ANOTHER RESTON COLUMN THAT SEN.
JACKSON HAD NOT ATTENDED MEETING WITH DAYAN, IMPLYING
MEETING CONSIDERED POLITICAL LIABILITY. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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SUGGEST VOTE INDICATES SEVERE CONFLICT OVER
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